



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**
New York District

SOUTH SHORE OF LONG ISLAND, NY

Environmental Restoration

FACT SHEET

DESCRIPTION: This study will examine the past impacts of Corps projects on the ecosystems, habitats and water quality of the embayment (back bay) areas along the south shore of Long Island, New York. Impacts that may have affected the back bay ecosystem include the loss of wetlands and associated habitats that support the fish and wildlife resources of the back bay areas in addition to the alteration of tidal patterns and the degradation of water quality, which adversely affect the biological productivity of the surrounding area. Hundreds of acres have likely been adversely impacted due to actions associated with existing Federal navigation projects and the indirect usage and development related to them.

AUTHORIZATION: The study was authorized by a resolution adopted by the United States House of Representatives Committee on Transportation and infrastructure on May 9, 1996. The study area is the entire south shore of Long Island, consisting of the back bay areas between the Long Island mainland and its smaller barrier islands. The embayment areas, comprised of an area of approximately 155 square miles, are a critical ecosystem of salt marshes and waterways, which provide habitat and spawning areas for a wide variety of species, including Federally-endangered species of shorebirds and sea turtles. The back bay system also provides shellfish and fish resources of substantial commercial value. Within the northeastern United States, at least 50% of finfish either directly or indirectly utilize and benefit from estuarine wetlands and back bays. Generally, a loss of wetlands has contributed to a declining finfish population in the northeast.

STATUS: A reconnaissance report was completed in June 1997 at full Federal expense. Coordination is continuing with potential sponsors on the development of the Project Study Plan (PSP). In FY 2003, we plan to execute a Feasibility Cost Sharing Agreement (FCSA) and initiate the feasibility phase. The estimated cost of the feasibility phase is approximately \$3,000,000, which is cost shared on a 50-50 percent basis by Federal and non-Federal interests. The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and Department of State support this study and have indicated their willingness to execute a Feasibility Cost Sharing Agreement, subject to final negotiations. This effort is presently on hold pending resolution of the study scope with the local sponsors.

PROJECT STUDY COST:

Estimated Federal Cost	\$1,500,000
Estimated Non-Federal Cost	\$1,500,000
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	\$3,000,000

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